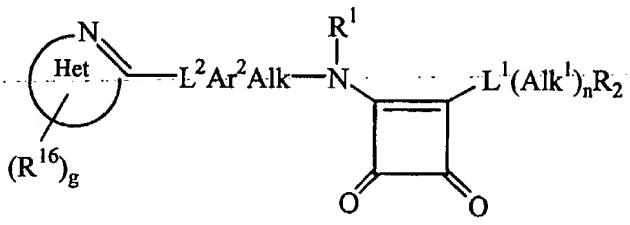
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1):



(1)

wherein

Het is a bicyclic fused ring heteroaromatic group;

g is zero or the integer 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Each R^{16}, which may be the same or different, is an atom or group $-L^3(Alk^2)_tL^4(R^4)_u$,

L^3 and L^4, which may be the same or different, are each a covalent bond or a linker atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)O-$, $-N(R^8)N-$, $-CON(R^8)-$, $-OC(O)N(R^8)-$, $-CSN(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CO-$, $-N(R^8)C(O)O-$, $-N(R^8)CS-$, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2-$, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)-$, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)-$, or $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)-$,

R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group,

t is zero or the integer 1,

u is an integer 1, 2 or 3,

Alk^2 is an aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain, and

R^4 is a hydrogen or halogen atom or a group selected from an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, $-OR^5$ (where R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally

substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group), $-SR^5$, $-NR^5R^6$ (where R^6 is as just defined for R^5 and may be the same or different), $-NO_2$, -CN, $-CO_2R^5$, $-SO_3H$, $-SOR^5$, SO_2R^5, $-SO_3R^5$, $-OCO_2R^5$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-OCONR^5R^6$, $-CSNR^5R^6$, $-COR^5$, $-OCOR^5$, $-N(R^5)COR^6$, $-N(R^5)CSR^6$, $-SO_2N(R^5)(R^6)$, $-N(R^5)SO_2R^6$, $N(R^5)CON(R^6)(R^7)$ (where R^7 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{3-8}cycloalkyl group), $-N(R^5)CSN(R^6)(R^7)$ or $-N(R^5)SO_2N(R^6)(R^7)$,

provided that when t is zero and each of L^3 and L^4 is a covalent bond then u is the integer 1 and R^4 is other than a hydrogen atom;

L^2 is a covalent bond or an atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2$, $-N(R^8)$- or $-C(R^8)(R^{8a})$- (where R^{8a} is an atom or group as defined for R^8 and may be the same or different);

Ar^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group;

Alk is a chain

$-CH_2CH(R)-$, $-CH=C(R)-$, $-\underset{\displaystyle CH_2R}{\overset{\displaystyle |}{CH}}-$ or $-\underset{\displaystyle CHR}{\overset{\displaystyle \|}{C}}-$

in which R is a carboxylic acid ($-CO_2H$), a carboxylic acid ester, a carboxylic acid amide, or a carboxylic acid biostere;

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6}alkyl group;

L^1 is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2$-, $-N(R^8)$-, $-N(R^8)O$-, $-N(R^8)N$-, $-CON(R^8)$-, $-OC(O)N(R^8)$-, $-CSN(R^8)$-, $-N(R^8)CO$-, $-N(R^8)C(O)O$-, $-N(R^8)CS$-, $-S(O)_2N(R^8)$-, $-N(R^8)S(O)_2$-, $-N(R^8)CON(R^8)$-, $-N(R^8)CSN(R^8)$-, or $-N(R^8)SO_2N(R^8)$-;

Alk^1 is an optionally substituted aliphatic chain;

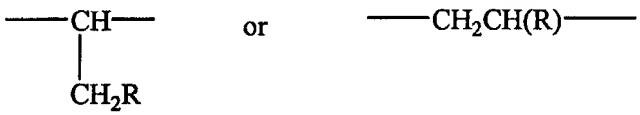
n is zero or the integer 1;

R^2 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted heteroaliphatic, ~~C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkenyl, C_{3-10}heterocycloalkyl, C_{3-10}heterocycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}bicycloalkyl, C_{7-10}tricycloalkyl, C_{7-10}bicycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}tricycloalkenyl, C_{7-10}bicycloheteroalkyl, C_{7-10}tricycloheteroalkyl, C_{7-10}bicycloheteroalkenyl, C_{7-10}tricycloheteroalkenyl,~~ C_{3-10}cycloaliphatic, C_{3-10}heterocycloaliphatic, C_{7-10}polycycloaliphatic, C_{7-10}heteropolycycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, wherein said heteroaliphatic, ~~heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, bicycloheteroalkyl, tricycloheteroalkyl, bicycloheteroalkenyl and tricycloheteroalkenyl~~ C_{3-10}heterocycloaliphatic, and C_{7-10}heteropolycycloaliphatic groups contain one, two, three, or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups as defined for L^3 and L^4, which may be the same or different;

provided that Het is not a 2,6-naphthyridin-1-yl, isoquinolin-1-yl, 2,7-naphthyridin-1-yl or quinazolin-4-yl group;

and the salts and N-oxides thereof.

2. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which Alk is a chain



3. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which R is a carboxylic acid (-CO_2H) group.

4. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which R is an esterified carboxyl group of formula $-CO_2Alk^7$.

5. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

6. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which Ar^2 is an optionally substituted phenylene group.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^1 is a $-N(R^8)-$ group where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group.

8. (original) A compound according to Claim 7 in which R^8 is a methyl, ethyl, or n-propyl group.

9. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^1 is a covalent bond.

10. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which n is the integer 1, Alk^1 is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-6}alkylene chain and R^2 is a hydrogen atom.

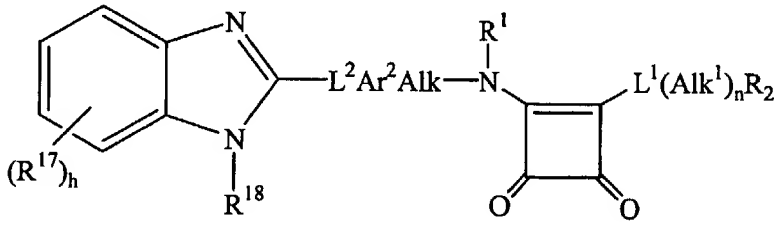
11. (original) A compound according to Claim 10 in which Alk^1 is a $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$ or $-C(CH_3)_2CH_2-$ chain.

12. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^1 is a covalent bond, n is zero and R^2 is an optionally substituted ~~C_{5-7}heterocycloalkyl or C_{5-7}heterocycloalkenyl~~ C_{5-7}heterocycloaliphatic group.

13. (original) A compound according to Claim 12 in which R^2 is an optionally substituted piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, heptamethyleneiminyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, homopiperazinyl, morpholinyl or thiomorpholinyl group.

14. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 in which L^2 is an -O- atom or -N(R^8)- group in which R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl group.

15. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (2a):



(2a)

wherein:

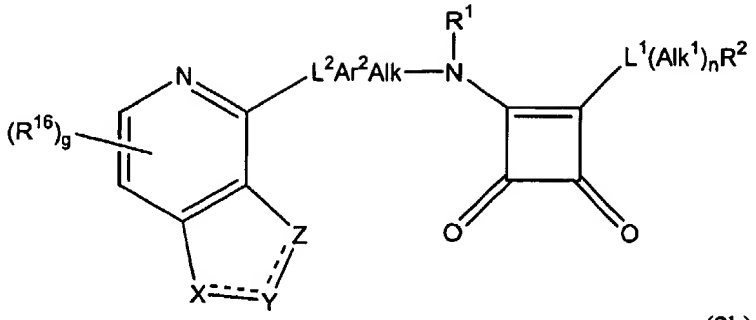
R^{17} is an atom or group R^{16} as previously defined;

h is zero or the integer 1, 2 or 3;

R^{18} is a hydrogen atom or an atom or group R^{16} as previously defined;

and the salts and N-oxides thereof.

16. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 of formula (2b):



(2b)

wherein:

X, Y and Z are each independently selected from a nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atom or CH group;

the broken line (---) represents saturation or unsaturation;

and the salts and N-oxides thereof.

17. (original) A compound according to Claim 16 in which X is an O or S atom, Y and Z are each a group CH, a single bond joins X and Y and a double bond joins Y and Z.

18. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 16 in which Z is an O or S atom, X and Y ~~is~~ are each a CH group, a single bond joins Y and Z and a double bond joins X and Y.

19. (previously presented) A compound which is:

S-2-{[2-Dipropylamino)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

S-2-{[2-Dipropylamino)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

S-2-{[2-(2-Methylpiperidin-1-yl)-3,4-dioxo-1-cyclobutenyl]amino}-3-{4-[(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)amino]phenyl}propanoic acid;

(*S*)-3-[4-(Thiophen[2,3-d]pyrimidin-4-ylamino)phenyl]2-(2-(diethylamino-3, 4-dioxocyclobut-1-enylamino)propanoic acid;

and the salts, N-oxides and carboxylic acid esters thereof.

20. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

21. (previously presented) A method for the treatment of inflammatory arthritis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma or inflammatory bowel disease comprising administering to a mammal suffering from such a disease or disorder a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21 wherein said inflammatory arthritis is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis and polydermatomyositis.

24. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 21 wherein said inflammatory dermatoses are selected from the group consisting of psoriasis and dermatitis.

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 19 wherein the carboxylic acid esters are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, and i-propyl.

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Drawings None

Number of claims ~~twenty-five~~ four

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